

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4022

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF

SUBJ: LETTER FROM PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TO SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

REF: USUN 1509

1. CHAIRMAN OF THE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, AMBASSADOR FALL (SENEGAL) SENT LETTER REPRODUCED IN PARA 3 TO SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BARTON (CANADA) ON JUNE 8. LETTER WAS CIRCULATED AS A SECURITY COUNCIL DOCUMENT JUNE 13. LETTER REMINDS THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN PROMOTING A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, ADMITS THAT NOT ALL ELEMENTS OF A SETTLEMENT ARE CONTAINED IN THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE, AND EXPRESSES THE COMMITTEE'S "STRONG BELIEF THAT DELAY IN ACTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO PROGRESS NOW BEING MADE...AND THAT THE COUNCIL AT ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEXT MEETING ON PALESTINE ENDEAVOR URGENTLY TO PROMOTE A POSITIVE APPROACH..."

2. LETTER CLEARLY ATTEMPTS TO SET MODERATE TONE AND PRESENT A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE OF COMMITTEE'S SELF-DEFINED MISSION. THIS REPRESENTS A NOTABLE DEPARTURE FROM PAST COMMUNICATIONS FROM THIS COMMITTEE. IT IS

ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT NO TIME FRAME IS ESTABLISHED FOR A COUNCIL DEBATE ON PALESTINE. SPECULATION NOW PLACES AN SC DEBATE ON PALESTINE INTO SEPTEMBER.

3. QUOTE LETTER DATED 8 JUNE 1977 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO RES 31/20 BY WHICH THE GA AT ITS 31ST SESSION ENDORSED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AS A BASIS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SC BY THE SYG IN HIS LETTER OF 21 DEC 1976.

AS CHAIRMAN, I AM AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMITTEE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION PARTICULARLY TO PARA 4 OF RES 31/20 UNDER THE TERMS OF WHICH THE GA URGED THE SC TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

IT SEEMS TO THE COMMITTEE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE LATEST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REVEALED A CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WAS A CENTRAL ELEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND THAT, THEREFORE, A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA COULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY IF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN THE COURSE OF THE DEBATE, IT WAS ALSO GENERALLY EMPHASIZED THAT A SATISFACTORY AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE COULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS. THESE TRENDS OF OPINION CONFIRM THE BASIC CONSIDERATIONS PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE IN ITS REPORT.

YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE NOTICED, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FLOW FROM THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE INADMISSIBILITY OF THE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE AND FROM THE SACRED PRINCIPLE OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. INDEED, AMONG THE MOST BASIC OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WAS THE CALL FOR URGENT IMPLEMENTATION, LONG OVERDUE, OF RESOLUTIONS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE PAST. ONE STRIKING EXAMPLE IS RES 237 (1967), UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A DECADE AGO, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH REMAINS THE

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SC.

THE COMMITTEE HAS POINTED OUT SEVERAL WAYS IN WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE SC, COULD EXERCISE AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN PROMOTING AND FACILITATING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

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THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO BEEN ENCOURAGED BY RECENT STATEMENTS BY LEADERS OF STATES WHICH PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN THE VIEW OF THE COMMITTEE, THESE STATEMENTS INDICATE A GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZE THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE COMMITTEE'S APPROACH TOWARDS FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO IT ON THE BASIS OF THE RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS.

I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO STATES CLEARLY THAT ITS MEMBERS CONSIDERED "THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS, IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, WOULD CONSTITUTE A CONTRIBUTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WOULD COMPLEMENT EFFORTS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION".

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I NEED HARDLY ADD THAT, IN FORMULATING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, THE COMMITTEE ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WAS FULLY AWARE THAT NOT ALL THE ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WERE CONTAINED IN ITS MANDATE.

IT IS THE COMMITTEE'S STRONG BELIEF THAT DELAY IN ACTION BY THE SC WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO PROGRESS NOW BEING MADE AND THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION DEMAND THAT AT ITS NEXT MEETING ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE THE COUNCIL - TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OBSERVATIONS MADE ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE LATEST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM - SHOULD ENDEAVOUR URGENTLY TO PROMOTE A POSITIVE APPROACH WHICH WOULD LEAD TANGIBLY TOWARDS THE SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM.

I WISH TO REITERATE TO YOU AND TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT THE COMMITTEE REMAINS ANXIOUS TO SUPPORT ANY CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS AIMED AT OVERCOMING THE PRESENT STALEMATE.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS LETTER COULD BE CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENTS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

(SIGNED) MEDOUNE FALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
UNQUOTE
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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